



***Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group***  
**Meeting Minutes**  
*July 15, 2009*

**Summary**

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**Epidemiology Work Group Members in Attendance (12):**

Phillip Stevenson, Chair (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)  
Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University)  
Steve Gendler (Arizona Department of Public Safety)  
Gita Bewtra, proxy for Gowri Shetty (Arizona Department of Health Services)  
Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services)  
Alf Olson, proxy for Michael Dolny (Arizona Department of Corrections)  
Meena Shahi (Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board, First Things First)  
Catherine Osborn (Arizona Department of Education)  
Emma Kibisu (Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services)  
David Choate, proxy for Charles Katz (Arizona State University)  
Michelle Anderson (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)  
Amy Stuart (Administrative Office of the Courts)

**Epidemiology Work Group Members Absent (4)**

Dennis Embry (Paxis Institute, Inc.)  
Zeenat Mahal (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)  
Katherine Guffey (Arizona Department of Economic Security)  
Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)

**Governor's Office Staff (1)**

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF, DSAP)

**Public (5):**

Michelle Neitch (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)  
Sgt. Gail Spore (Arizona Department of Public Safety)  
Ric Wood (Pima Prevention Partnership)  
Patti Hibbler (Phoenix Indian Center)  
David Gallagher (Arizona Addiction Treatment Programs, Inc.)



**Call to Order** was made by **Phillip Stevenson** at 1:02 p.m., after noting that a quorum was present.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

**Phillip Stevenson** asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Stevenson** referred attendees to the June 2009 meeting minutes and asked attendees to review them for any errors. **Wendy Wolfersteig** motioned to approve the minutes; **Richard Porter** seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.

### **Announcements**

- **Mr. Stevenson** called for announcements.
  - **Meena Shahi** reminded attendees that Requests for Grant Applications (RFGAs) can be found on the First Things First website.

### **Emerging Issues Subcommittee Update**

- **David Choate** updated the group on the progress of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee, including the Co-Occurring Spotlight Report (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter project), the School Resource Officer (SRO) Canary Survey (4<sup>th</sup> quarter project), and the current Life Path Project:
  - The narrative for the Life Path Project is being edited based upon feedback from the Emerging Issues Subcommittee group members after they were requested for their recommendations based upon the information provided in the report. The report is being expanded to include a Next Steps section as well as a piece on Recommendations.
  - The focus of the current Spotlight Report is co-occurring disorders. **Mr. Choate** indicated that the report will examine co-occurring disorders among detained youth as well as among incarcerated adults. Data will be supplied by the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections and the Arizona Department of Corrections.
  - Data from the School Resource Officer Survey will inform a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter School Resource Officer Spotlight Report and will be reviewed at the upcoming August Emerging Issues meeting.
  - **Mr. Choate** discussed a future Heroin Spotlight report, with data to be submitted by:
    - Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC)
    - Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC)
    - Treatment Episodes Data Set (TEDS) by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS)
    - Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)
    - Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network (AARIN)
    - **Amy Stuart** will check on the availability of adult probation data to inform the report.



### **2009 Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile Update**

- **Jeanne Blackburn** updated the group on the status of the 2009 *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile*, noting that the data have been gathered for the Profile (with few exceptions, which have been previously discussed) and the contract for Bach Harrison's services is in process.
  - **Jeanne Blackburn** and **Phillip Stevenson** will participate in a teleconference call with Bach Harrison next week to discuss the layout of the document and the deliverables.
    - **Ms. Blackburn** will ask Bach Harrison to provide an outline of the document for the group members' review and feedback.

### **Community Data Project**

- **Ric Wood** presented information to the group on the Community Level Instrument (CLI) used by coalitions to assess substance abuse in their communities and discussed the utility of these data to the Community Data Project, including the data analysis issues inherent in these types of data.
- **Phillip Stevenson** presented the group with a draft Scope of Work for the Community Data Project that will be funded through the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF). The outlined goals of the project thus far are:
  - to serve as a central data repository
  - to provide policymakers and other interested parties with easy access to community-level data (with an active dissemination strategy)
  - to facilitate data sharing across agencies
  - to facilitate the reporting of National Outcome Measures (NOMs)
  - to standardize the measurement of process and performance measurements, which will serve to enhance coalition work
  - to identify tools for prevention professionals, policymakers and other interested parties for the betterment of their work

### **Next Project**

- **Phillip Stevenson** reminded the group of the conversation that had been tabled at the June meeting regarding the next project to be undertaken by the group.
  - The group conceded that given the potential of a Partnerships for Success (PFS) grant award, a grant award to the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC), the 2009 *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile*, the 2009 *The Impact of Substance Abuse: A Snapshot of Arizona* report, the need to update the *Substance Abuse Treatment Services Capacity Report*, and other miscellaneous ongoing data requests and presentations, the group should focus its efforts on a small project until more is known about pending grant awards and other work.
    - **Wendy Wolfersteig** suggested that the group create a PowerPoint presentation to be populated with data from the 2009 *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile*. Epi members would be responsible for taking turns presenting the information to interested groups and coalitions.



- **Jeanne Blackburn** will check with the appropriate parties to determine whether such a project would be a duplication of effort. She will inform the group of next steps as soon as they are determined.

### **Call to Public**

A call to the public was made.

- David Gallagher commented that it would be beneficial to collect or report on data related to the sophistication of drug dealers (e.g., drug dealing methods, intricate drug dealing networks, skill of probationers to beat the criminal justice system).

**Adjourn** at 2:52 p.m. after **Wendy Wolfersteig** made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by **Meena Shahi**, with a reminder that the next meeting will be held on August 19, location to be determined.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF, DSAP).